OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE BUDGET SESSION, 1118

Friday, *the* $\frac{\textit{30th July 1943.}}{\textit{14th Karkadagam 1118.}}$

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at half past eleven of the clock with the Hon'ble the President (A. F. W. Dixon Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S.) in the Chair.

Messrs. Walmesley, Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan, Khan Sahib Ismail Hajee Essa Sait and T. P. Poulose were absent.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

DIWAN—SUCCESSOR OF

32. Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether Mr. Dixon, the present Diwan is leaving the service of the State; and

(*b*) whether it has been decided as to who is to succeed him?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)*: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No announcement can yet be made.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Will Government be pleased to note that the office of the Diwan is the highest in the State and that before rumours circulate certain communiques are issued by the Government in the matter?

Mr. President: I can assure the Hon'ble Member that when the matter is finally settled, a communique will be issued. But it is not possible to issue communiques before final decisions are taken.

MEDICAL, ENGINEERING, ETC., COURSES—PARTICULARS OF CANDIDATES

33. Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) during the last 10 years how many Cochin students have been selected and sent up to (i) The Medical College, Madras; (ii) The Engineering College, Guindy; and (iii) The Benares Hindu University;

(*b*) the total amount spent yearly during the last decade at (i) The Madras Medical College; (ii) The Engineering College, Guindy; and (iii) The Benares Hindu University;

(*c*) the number of applicants in each year during the last decade for selection by Government to (i) Medical College, Madras; (ii) The Engineering College, Guindy; and (iii) The Benares Hindu University?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)*:

	Year	*Medical College, Madras*	*Engineering College, Guindy*	*Benares Hindu University*
(*a*)	1108	1	2	6
	1109	2	2	6
	1110	1	2	2 (6 selected; only 2 joined)
	1111	2	2	6
	1112	2	2	4
	1113	2	2	4 (6 selected; only 4 joined)
	1114	2	2	1 (6 selected; only 1 joined)
	1115	2	2	7
	1116	2	2	6
	1117	2	2	6

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		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
(b)	1108	800	3,500	6,000
	1109	1,600	3,000	6,000
	1110	2,400	6,150	6,000
	1111	4,000	10,850	6,000
	1112	5,600	12,000	6,000
	1113	56,000	12,500	6,000
	1114	6,400	11,650	6,000
	1115	6,400	12,850	9,000
	1116	5,600	14,150	9,000
	1117	5,600	11,150	9,000
(c)	1108	15	12	6
	1109	6	3	9
	1110	5	9	8
	1111	4	11	6
	1112	7	10	4
	1113	7	9	9
	1114	9	8	8
	1115	4	11	12
	1116	11	11	6
	1117	7	13	10

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I request the Hon'ble President to allow any other member to put the question since Mr. Salem is not here in his seat. It is a very important question. The Hon'ble Member for Education also is not here. We may be allowed Sir, to put this question tomorrow either through Mr. Salem or through any other member.

Mr. President: You can raise the matter before questions and answers tomorrow and it will be considered.

EXTENT OF FOREST AREA GIVEN ON PATTAM

34. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) what is the extent of forest area given on pattam to various individuals for cultivation purposes during the years 1116, 1117 and 1118;

(b) have the Government any objection for excluding these areas from the forest department and register these in the names of the persons who have cultivated these areas?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* (a) 1116 Nil. 1117 .. 4,122 acres approximately and 1118 .. 1,701 acres approximately (leased so far).

(b) The whole of these forest areas under lease cannot be excluded. However portions of these areas could be made available for exclusion and assignment consistent with the interests of Forest Conservancy.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Does the acreage shown include the areas leased during the food production drive recently?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* The areas allotted for hill paddy cultivation have not been included.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will you kindly give us an idea as to where these lands lie?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* These lands lie all over the different parts of the State. The figures for the current year are not complete.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will Government be pleased to note that when compared to Travancore we have got 100 square miles of forests more than the proportionate area in Travancore.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* I do not know the exact area there. I think that the proportion will be more or less the same.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* May I say it is 2,000 square miles.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* I am sure it is more than 2,000 square miles. It is somewhere near 3,000, more than 2,500 in any case.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Will the House be justified, Sir, in drawing the inference from the figures supplied that the decrease in the acreage leased out to tenants for cultivation from 4,122 acres in 1117 to 1701 in the current year is due to the fact that the areas leased in 1117 had been taken up by the hill paddy scheme in part.

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QUESTION No. 33

Medical, Engineering, etc., Courses-Particulars of Candidates

Mr. President : Now that the Hon'ble Member for Education is present we can take up question No. 33.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* I find that the Government had to spend Rs. 94,400 in the Medical College and Rs. 97,800 in the Engineering College. May I know why this arrangement is going on like this now and how this arrangement came about.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* To the best of my information I think that the Government of Madras found it extremely difficult to admit their own boys without increasing equipment, staff etc., and they were bound to give preference to their own boys. So it was agreed both by the Diwans of Cochin and Travancore that they would also make a partial contribution for the amenities which now being given to the boys.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Previous to this arrangement of 1108 what was the arrangement ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* It is very difficult to say. There were years, I am told, when boys could not get a seat.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri) :* Is there any restriction on the number of pupils going to the Medical College ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction) :* There was restriction with regard to the number of seats available.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri) :* Was there any restriction as to the number of students applying for admission in the Medical College at that time ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* Restriction imposed by whom ?

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri) :* By the Madras Government.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* Certainly. They could take only a certain number.

Mr. A. L. Antony *(Irinjalakkuda) :* What was that number please ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction) :* I want notice.

Mr. A. L. Antony *(Irinjalakkuda) :* What is the allotted number of seats ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction) :* I want notice.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri) :* Is the Hon'ble Member aware that at one and the same time there were more than two students before 1108 ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* It was very likely because there was no restriction. Sir, There was a time when there was a dearth of men in the Presidency College and in the Training College in Madras. Today we find there is not enough accommodation even for boys coming from Madras Province. We have had information from the Principal of the Engineering College that about 200 people have been refused admission on the ground of over-age alone.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri) :* May I know whether it was because of the difficulty experienced by Cochinites in getting admission at the Medical and Engineering Colleges that the Government came forward reserving two seats in each College at such prohibitive costs.

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer) :* I told the Principal of the Medical College about the difficulty of getting admission for students. He said he will look into the matter if proper representation is made.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri) :* May I know whether the Hon'ble Member is aware that the Goverument of Madras asked when they were extending the equipment in the Medical College for a contribution from the Cochin Government.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction) :* I want notice.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri) :* What is the course for which students are selected to the Benares Hindu University.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* All these people have gone for Mechanical and Electrical Engineering.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri) :* Over and above the amounts mentioned has any donation been given?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* The Hon'ble Member will find that from the year 1115 onwards we have been contributing Rs. 9,000 instead of Rs. 6,000 as in previous years.

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Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)* : Over and above the amounts mentioned here has any munificient donation been given to the University ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government)* : The Government gave a lakh of rupees.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)* : May I know what is the cost of maintaining a seat either for Mechanical or Electrical Engineering in an ordinary well-equipped College ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)*: I don't know. It is very difficult for me to say because in the case of the Medical College and the Engineering College at Guindy we have definite information that we have to contribute Rs. 800 to the Medical College and Rs. 1,000 in the case of the Engineering College. To the Benares Hindu University we are not making any contribution on that basis. The Government are making a munificient contribution which is not subject to any condition. There are years when they admitted 20 students.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)* : Can I know Sir, from the Government of Cochin whether they have any idea what a seat in an Engineering College will cost to the authorities ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)*: I have no information.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)* : My suggestion is this. Whether it is possible with a little extra expenditure to start in Cochin a College which will have the engineering course, both mechanical, electrical and if possible civil. That is the suggestion behind the other question. If the Government of Cochin have spent a thought upon it I would be very glad to have that information.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)*: Mr. President, Sir, the great difficulty is not merely one cost. Another difficulty is you cannot get as many students as you want every year. We had considered a similar question in the matter of opening a Training College here. We found on actual computation that this College will have sufficient lead only for about 5 years. We will have to close it down for 15 years and reopen it again. I think the situation is very much the same or even worse in respect of the Engineering College.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)* : May I inform the Hon'ble Member that there were 1,200 applicants for admission into the Engineering College at Guindy ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)* : It is possible.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)* : Is the Hon'ble Member aware that a Missionary Medical College has been opened at Vellore ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)* : As a matter of fact the question of increasing the number of seats in the Medical and Engineering Colleges is engaging the attention of the Government.

Mr.V.J.Mathai *(Planters)* : May I point out to the Government that an important course in Mining and Metallurgy has been opened in the Benares Hindu University ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)* : As a matter of fact for the last 6 years we have been sending at least one for that course.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)* : Did the Government use any influence in the selection of any particular candidate ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)* : As candidates came up we made recommendations and all our recommendations have been accepted. There has not been a single instance of an applicant who has applied to this Government for a seat in the Mining and Metallurgy section of the Benares, Hindu University which has been turned down by the authorities.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)* : May I know why in 1113 Rs. 56,000 was paid to the Madras Medical College.

Mr. President : I think it is a mis-print.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)* : It is a printing mistake. It ought to be Rs. 5,600.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)* : On the average we spend Rs. 5,600 and Rs. 6,400 for 8 students. For each student you are spending Rs. 800. Why this difference ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction)* : Formerly we had only five years' course. Now it is 5½ years.

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government)* : We spent Rs. 1,000 for a student. But from each student we are getting a contribution of Rs. 200.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)* : May I know whether we gave a big donation of 3½ lakhs to the Banares Hindu University ?

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Mr. President : I think it is one lakh.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri) :* When Pandit Madan Mohan Malavia came to this State ?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Secretary to Government):* It is one lakh.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri) :* May I know whether there was a proposal from the Government of Madras that Cochin should make a contribution because their students also are coming into the Madras Medical Colleges when they were expanding their equipment. Is it because that proposal was turned down, that our number of admission into the College was restricted ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction) :* The Madras Medical College is a very old institution and they had no difficulty in admitting students from Cochin State in large numbers. In the case of the Benares Hindu University the Government gave this lakh of rupees at the time of its inception when Pandit Madan Mohan Malavia went round collecting funds. We had no occasion to consider the question of a donation to the Madras Medical College whereas Pandit Malavia came down here and requested for a donation.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri) :* Was there not a proposal before this Government from the Madras Government ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* Not that I know of and there was no kind of retaliation.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri) :* Reaction.

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction) :* Not at all.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters) :* Are the Goverament aware of a recent order of the Madras Government distributing seats in the Engineering College on a linguistic basis ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction) :* As we have our own village-war and taluk-war difficulties they also will have their own district-war, taluk-war and linguistic difficulties.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters) :* The percentage is only 7 for Malabar.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri) :* To resume the trend of my questions, may I know whether there is hope for starting a college here? The Hon'ble Member for Education gave two reasons, not mainly a question of cost. The other reasons cannot prevail. I presume that we can afford to go in for that ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction) :* No.

Mr. President: The question of starting a full-fledged Enginering College in the State at present could not be considered. It will be an extremely difficult proposition and the equipment required will be unobtainable at present. But the idea of developing the present technical training centre at Trichur into a technological school may be considered. I am afraid I cannot say much about this for security reasons. But the present is not a suitable time for starting anything on a big scale. So far as Madras is concerned—I speak subject to correction we get more seats in the Engineering College because the course has been shortened and so far as the Medical College is concerned, we will consider the question of asking the Madras government to increase the number of seats. I have also asked the C. M. O. to look into the matter to see whether we cannot get more seats in the Medical College.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Has the Government thought about starting a medical college ?

Rao Sahib I. N.Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* No, Sir.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters) :* What will be the cost.

Rao Sahib Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Madical Officar) :* Not leass than 50 lakhs.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* In the light of the very valuable and helpful observation made by the Hon'ble President may I request you, sir, that what is contained in that statement may be attempted to be put through in the course of September and October. That means go forward without the least delay.

Mr. President: It has already been explained to the House that it is not a convenient season. Now our men are getting technical training at the expense of the Government of India. When that scheme comes to an end will be the time when we would wish to take up the question of establishing a school of technology. At the present time hundreds of our candidates are being trained at the expense of the Government of India for work in factories and for technical work with the army.

Election of a member to the Education Advisory Committee

Only one nomination to the Eduction Advisory Committee has been received. That is of Mr. Petta. Mr. Joesph Petta is duly declarad elected.

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